

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 1354

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: ISTANBUL SECURITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON STUDENT VIOLENCE

REF: ISTANBUL 1292

SUMMARY: ISTANBUL DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF REPORTS EXTREME LEFT IDEOLOGY PROMINENT FACTOR IN CAMPUS VIOLENCE. TURKISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (TSWP) AND ISTANBUL HIGHER EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ASSN (IYOKD) TRYING TO USE STUDENT VIOLENCE TO DISCREDIT DEMIREL GOVT. POLICE CONCERNED RE ABILITY CONTINUE CONTAIN VIOLENCE IF MARTIAL LAW LIFTED. END SUMMARY.

1. ISTANBUL DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF NIHAT KANER APRIL 25, IN DISCUSSING RECENT STUDENT VIOLENCE WITH CONGENOFFS, SAID EXTREME LEFT IDEOLOGY IS AT HEART OF STUDENT CLASHES. ELEMENTS OF TURKISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (TSWP) AND ISTANBUL HIGHER EDUCATION CULTURAL ASSN (IYOKD) HAVE EXPLOITED CAMPUS GRIEVANCES (E.G. EXAMINATION SYSTEM, FOOD COSTS, ETC.) FOR POLITICAL ENDS. KANER REPORTED TSWP AND IYOKD SEEK CONFRONTATION IN ORDER DEMONSTRATE BRUTALITY OF "FASCIST" GOVERNMENT. LATEST DEMONSTRATIONS (SEE REFTTEL) REACHED NEW LEVEL VIOLENCE SINCE EXTREME LEFT WISHES EMBARRASS DEMIREL NATIONALIST FRONT.

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2. OF THE TWO EXTREME LEFT ORGANIZATIONS (TSWP AND IYOKD) KANER BELIEVES LATTER IS THE MOST DANGEROUS. IT IS MILITANT, MARXIST AND HAS A SIGNIFICANT KURDISH MEMBERSHIP. KANER SAID IT APPEARS IYOKD WAS MOST ACTIVE FORCE IN APRIL 25 ARMED CLASH AT THE SITE STUDENT HOSTEL WHERE ONE MAN WAS KILLED. WHILE APPROXIMATELY 400 OF HOSTEL'S 1000 STUDENTS HAVE LEFTIST SYMPATHIES, ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE ARE ACTIVISTS. IYOKD, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY WAS ABLE TO INCITE STUDENTS TO RESIST POLICE SEARCH, FORCING POLICE TO ASSAULT BUILDING WITH PANZER RIOT VEHICLES. KANER DISMISSED ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE SYMPATHY WITH "COMMANDOS", SAYING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT WAS THAT RIGHT-WING STUDENTS OBEYED POLICE ORDERS WHILE LEFTISTS RESPONDED WITH STONES AND CLUBS.

3. KANER NOTED THAT ONE FACTOR REMOVING RESTRAINTS AGAINST CAMPUS VIOLENCE HAS BEEN ATTITUDE OF REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) YOUTH BRANCH. PREVIOUSLY RPP YOUTH ORGANIZATION HAD KEPT MEMBERS IN LINE. NOW THAT IT IS IN RPP'S POLITICAL INTEREST TO EM-BARRASS NATIONALIST FRONT, YOUTH ORGANIZATION HAS TAKEN PASSIVE ROLE. HE ADDED THAT SEVERAL RPP FIGURES, TOGETHER WITH TSWP AND IYOKD MEMBERS, PARTICIPATED IN A PROTEST MARCH APRIL 26 CONDEMNING KILLING OF THE STUDENT HOSTEL'S JANITOR.

4. TSWP AND IYOKD SEEKING PERMISSION HOLD MAY DAY MEETINGS, ACCORDING TO KANER, BUT QUESTIONABLE WHETHER ISTANBUL MARTIAL LAW COMMAND WILL AUTHORIZE LARGE RALLIES. TSWP WANTS STUDENT-WORKER SOLIDARITY MARCH IN BEYAZIT SQUARE NEAR ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY, WHICH LIKELY TO BE DENIED, WHILE IYOKD PETITIONING FOR CLOSED MEETING AT ESTABLISHMENT NEAR CONGEN BUILDING. PERMISSION LIKELY TO BE GRANTED. KANER ANTICIPATED NO THREAT TO CONGEN BUILDING, BUT SAID POLICE WOULD TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES. EVEN IF MASS MEETING HELD IN DEFIANCE OF EXPECTED MARTIAL LAW REFUSAL, KANER SEES NO IMMEDIATE DANGER TO AMCIIS OR CONGEN PREMISES. PROTEST HAS BEEN ANTI-NATIONALIST FRONT RATHER THAN ANTI-US.

5. KANER CONCLUDED THAT THE POLICE COULD HANDLE CONTINUED STUDENT CLASHES BECAUSE (A) THE POLICE HAVE ABOUT 200 PLAINCLOTHESMEN AMONG STUDENT BODY AND (B) THE EXISTENCE OF MARTIAL LAW FACILITATES DISPERSING OF ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATIONS. KANER OBSERVED THAT IF MARTIAL LAW WERE LIFTED THE SITUATION WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED, CONFIDENTIAL

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SERIOUSLY INHIBITING THE POLICE FORCE'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN ORDER. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WOULD BE NO LEGAL MEANS OF PREVENTING MASS MARCHES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WHICH LIKELY TO LEAD TO OUTBURSTS OF VIOLENCE.

6. COMMENT: KANER'S COMMENTS ON POLICE EFFECTIVENESS IF MARTIAL LAW IS DISCONTINUED ARE PERTINENT IN VIEW RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT RPP IS CONSIDERING OPPOSING EXTENSION OF MARTIAL LAW

(WHICH BEING DEBATED BY PARLIAMENT TODAY) ON GROUNDS NATIONALIST
FRONT IS USING EXTRAORDINARY POWERS TO CURTAIL DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS.
IF RPP DOES INDEED VOTE AGAINST MARTIAL LAW RPP YOUTH ORGANIZATION
MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO COOPERATE WITH IYOKD AND TSWP IN FURTHER
ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN ATTEMPT BRING DOWN GOVERNMENT.
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